

COBB A REVELATION IN SPRING PRACTICE

Fleet Tyrus Pulls Off Stellar Stunts in Right Garden That Make Clean Singles Look Like Scratch Bingles.

LETTERS TO WASHINGTON FANS—No. 17

Dallas, Texas, March 25, 1939.

Dear Fanatics: The difference between a really first-class ball player and one only fairly good is being exemplified every day by the work of Ty Cobb in spring practice with the Detroit Tigers.

Cobb is playing such a swift game in right field that any ordinary safe hit into his territory is an infield blow, as far as necessity for the runner keeping on the jump is concerned. He is grabbing the swift bouncers that come to him, and firing them to Rossman at first base with so much promptness that a slow or indifferent sprinter constantly runs the risk of the humiliating experience of being thrown out on a clean single.

Ganley, of Washington, is not a slow baserunner, yet he was just one step ahead of Cobb's throw in Sunday's game on a perfect single to right. In the two games at San Antonio Cobb did not throw out anyone, but several narrowly escaped, including Cliff Blanton. In exhibition games he has landed several minor league victims in that way, and before all the reformers for revenue only are working for a living instead of working the public he will nip a lot more.

Combines Nerve and Brains.

In baserunning Cobb is not only a revelation because of his speed, but because of his nerve and his brains. If a catcher juggles a ball a fraction of a second Cobb is on his way to another base, or makes such a strong bluff that he rattles the entire infield. When he starts a straight steal he is off so fast the catcher is usually more or less overanxious, and that accounts for much of his success. In bunting he is a wonder. When he makes his pass at the ball he swings himself into his stride at the same movement, and is three or four steps toward the bag by the time the ball reaches the ground. That, and not favoritism on the part of the scorers, is responsible for many of the liberally construed hits he gets every year—the invariably handles the ball is almost invariably

excited and does not make as clean a throw to the first baseman as he would on other men, and the play being thus made exceptionally close. Cobb is sure to be the subject of the doubt. It would be well for some of our other young friends who are kicking about scoring to hear these thoughts in mind.

Also, we note with approval that Cobb shows a vast amount of enthusiasm in his spring work. He hustles just as hard in the exhibition games as in the American League, and his reputation for going through all his paces causes the attendance of thousands of people to the spring training contests of the Tigers. The club should bear this in mind if he ever kicks for more money.

Schaefer Subdued.

It seemed strange at San Antonio to see Germany Schaefer acting in a quiet and subdued manner, except when kidding Joe Cantillon. Germany was ill for a week or ten days in the South and at one time it was thought he had appendicitis, but he is gradually getting into shape again.

Speaking of the Tigers, it is likely Jennings will let out Bumpus Jones, who pitched against Washington on Sunday last. Works, who pitched against Washington on Saturday; Speer, a recruit, and possibly Allen, a Vanderbilt University man who is not to report until June. Washington and Detroit are both bothered over the problem what pitchers to release, instead of what to retain, and they are remarkably fortunate in that respect. Jennings has a staff of veterans in whom he has great confidence, and he cannot afford to carry the youngsters, although he thinks all of them have the makings of major league material. His pitching staff will probably be Mullin, Donovan, Killian, Summers, Suggs, Winter, Willets, and LaFitte, who was with Detroit last year. Jennings privately entertains the opinion that Suggs is the coming star of the American League.

Bush, the young Tiger shortstop, worked his way from a semi-pro team in Indianapolis to the Tigers, and is a two small towns in a small league, then to the Indianapolis team of the American Association, and from there to Detroit. He is a mighty clever fielder, and George Nill's size, and has been hitting well. He holds up in his sticking he is going to be a wonder for the Tigers.

Yours in the faith,
THOMAS S. RICE.

PROVES WORTH DAILY IN EXHIBITION GAMES



TYRUS COBB, Detroit.

MCGRAW MAY TAKE CY SEYMOUR BACK

Giants' Manager Awaits Definite Word From Mike Donlin.

DALLAS, Tex., March 25.—Whether Cy Seymour will be one of the Giants' outfielders this season depends on the actions of Mike Donlin.

Manager McGraw still says that there is nothing new in the case of J. Bentley, and that the Albany boy has no standing as a New York player; but it is positively known that if Mike Donlin refuses to sign Cy will be taken back into the fold on his promise to behave himself in the future. Nothing will be done about reinstating Seymour until Mike Donlin is heard from.

President Brush and Manager McGraw do not intend to run after Donlin, or to increase the offer previously made to him; but the Giants' president, who started for home last night without waiting for the finish of the banquet to McGraw, shortly will sound the noted slugger and see if he cannot dissuade Donlin from following a stage career instead of pastime on the diamond.

Brush's interview with Mr. Michael will not take place until next Monday. Donlin, on his way to New York, will stop off in his home city of Indianapolis for a few days, and will not reach the Great White Way until next Monday.

STERRET POPULAR CHOICE FOR BERTH

New George Washington Track Captain Consistent Point Winner.

Surprise was expressed today at George Washington University over the resignation of Noble Claggett as captain of the Hatcherite track team and the subsequent election of Jack Sterret, the pole vaulter, to fill the vacancy.

Claggett states that, because of his heavy studies, he has not been able to do himself justice on the cinder path, and therefore wishes to turn the captaincy over to another.

Sterret's election is popular. For the past three seasons he has been a member of the George Washington track squad and probably the most consistent point winner developed at the downtown school. Besides being recognized as the South's champion pole vaulter, Sterret is also a capable track man, and has on numerous occasions filled in on the relay team.

In the past two years he has shown himself to be the premier pole vaulter in the South. This season's needs in particular have established his standing in Southern collegiate athletics. Only once this year has he failed to land first in the pole vault, and in that instance he was nosed out by a scarce inch.

RECORDS SMASHED IN AUTO CARNIVAL

George Robertson Clips Previous Marks For Five-Mile Drive.

DAYTONA, Fla., March 25.—A fast course, large attendance, a hard southern breeze blowing up the course and the shattering of world's records in automobile, motor cycle, and bicycle events characterized the second day's Daytona Beach tournament.

The first event was a half-mile dash by motorcycle, with a flying start, in which there were ten starters.

The next event was the first heat in the five-mile race for five miles, in which Robertson, De Palma, and Fitzpatrick were entered. Fitzpatrick, however, suffered engine trouble with his "red devil" and was forced to retire.

Both drivers got away on the scratch with a flying start, the huge Benz with Robertson at the wheel gradually drawing away from her rival, a Fiat Cycloae, with Ralph De Palma at the wheel and hurling the car across the line in the phenomenal time of 2:45.15 and breaking the world's record for gasoline cars held by Lancia in a 100-horsepower Fiat of 2:54.5, made on this course in 1936, and also the steam record of 2:47.15, made by Fred Marriott in the same year.

OWNERS WILL PLACE THEIR OWN WEIGHTS

Steeplechase Handicap Will Be a Stellar Feature At Pimlico Meet Next Month—Furnishes Rare Chance For Sportsmanship.

BALTIMORE, Md., March 25.—In the list of events to be decided at the coming meeting of the Maryland Jockey Club at Pimlico there is one event that stands out as a strictly sportsmanlike race.

This is the Owners' Steeplechase Handicap, which will be run on Tuesday, May 4. As the name implies, it is a race handicapped by owners, and the official allotment of weights is saved the task of worrying how to put enough weight on each horse to bring them on an equal basis.

The plan of the race is to get as many entries as possible, and then give a list to each owner with the request to show what he knows of this important angle of the sport. In addition, the owners must be able to make a fair burden to his own runner he must also take into consideration the ability of every other hedge climber.

How System Works.

When all the lists are turned into the secretary the weights are averaged and announced officially. One would think at first glance that an owner would have an opportunity of slipping his horse in at a ridiculous allowance, but it must not be forgotten that his rivals have the same chance, and it has never failed that when the figuring is over the runners carry about the same weight that the official handicapper could put on their backs.

It must be said in all fairness to the owners that never in a race of this order has one tried to get the best of his rivals. Outside of his natural eagerness to win a race, an owner at the same time wishes to show that when it comes down to handicapping no one has anything on him. In previous seasons the weights have been so arranged that the race has been one of the most open of the meetings. The favorite has generally ruled at 3 to 1, which seldom happens unless in one of the long distance stakes.

Case Is Popular.

Last year this event was won by Dulcan, which carried 138 pounds, but he was all out to defeat Noblesse Oblige, with 139 pounds, by one length. Guardian finished third, four lengths in the rear, and the fourth horse was close up.

The steeplechase game is going to be such a factor in racing circles this season, and there are so many good timber-toppers getting in condition, that the associated horsemen expect a very entry list, which will insure a very exciting contest.

RESULTS JUSTIFY PRESENT LINE-UP

Naught But Swatting of Deleahanty Could Persuade Cantillon to Change.

By THOMAS S. RICE.

DALLAS, Tex., March 25.—Washington's fielding, as displayed in the two close games with Dallas, leaves little to be desired and nothing but the swatting of Deleahanty could make Cantillon break up the present combination.

Unglaub has not played second before, but he is filling in there in grand style. Freeman is showing one hundred per cent better form than last year, when he was decidedly wild and erratic.

Sam Crane, who is in Dallas with the New York Giants, predicted that Washington would find they got the long end of the bargain when it bought Wild Conroy from the New York Americans. Conroy's handling of difficult chances has been splendid and he is heaving the ball to first with unusual speed and accuracy. His knee and ankle are bothering him somewhat and he is resting whenever he can, hence the injection of Blankenship into the game yesterday to cover third, when Washington beat Dallas by 3 to 2.

Tannehill is hitting the ball hard. He has not had great luck in placing his hits, but he is showing he has the eye and his nose is in the game. The major league outfielder after his pitching days are over are becoming brighter every day. Had the fans at Dallas yesterday been unsophisticated Easterners there might have been a panic for the last half of the game was played in a blinding sandstorm and the whole heavens were so overcast with dust that the sun appeared as a mere blotch in the sky. Those conditions accounted for Clymer's error and made Ganley's two catches all the more conspicuous.

Clymer ran around in two or three circles trying to get under a fly from Burnett in the eighth inning. Then the wind brought it on him so suddenly he dropped it after getting it in his hands. Stillwell followed with a very similar contribution, but Clymer held that one.

SLOSSON GOES BEST IN BILLIARD TOURNAMENT

Veteran Holds High Average in International Contests at New York.

By THOMAS S. RICE.

NEW YORK, March 25.—George Slosson, the "student" of billiards and the 18.1 champion, is today credited with the best average and the highest run thus far made in the International 18.2 tournament now being played. In his game last night against A. G. Cutler, of Boston, Slosson made a high run of 25 and an average of 62.5, defeating his opponent 59 to 27.

In the afternoon game Calvin Demarest, of Chicago, defeated P. P. Cline, of Philadelphia, 50 to 27. Slosson, Cutler, the French expert, and Morningstar, of London, today with one victory each and no defeat.

FOWLER IS PICKED TO LAND MARATHON

Boston Crack Favorite for Big Amateur Event on Saturday.

NEW YORK, March 25.—Robert Fowler, of Boston, winner of the Yonkers Marathon on New Year's Day, is a favorite for the race at the classic distance which will start in Yonkers on Saturday, the last sixteen miles being run in American League park. Fred Lorz, of the Mohawk Athletic Club, is regarded as Fowler's most dangerous rival.

There is a lot of support for Matt Maloney, who holds the amateur outdoor record, in his belief that he can win the Marathon Derby at the Polo Grounds next week. He certainly has fine speed, but will need it all to beat Dorando and Shrubbs, to say nothing of Longboat, St. Yves and Hayes.

CORBETT WILL MEET BERT KEYES TONIGHT

Former Champion Should Have Hands Full With Hard-Hitting Gothamite.

NEW YORK, March 25.—Young Corbett will tonight meet the toughest proposition he has encountered since his attempt to climb the pugilistic ladder again.

He will meet Bert Keyes, one of the hardest hitters among the local fighters. They clash for ten rounds and both are in fine condition and confident.

KAUFMAN WILLING TO MEET BERGER

BOSTON, Mass., March 25.—Al Kaufman, the California puncher, who will meet Sandy Ferguson here on April 6, is today at work preparing for what he expects will be a grueling battle. Kaufman says he is still ready to meet Jeffries.

"I see," said Kaufman, "that Jeffries declares he will back Berger against me for \$5,000. Let them put up some money and see how quick I will take on my old rival again."

TIMELY COMMENT ON DAY'S SPORT TOPICS

AS OTHERS SEE US.

THE large majority of Washington fans have no other gauge of the National's prospects than the opinions of Washington sport editors.

To ally the fear that these verdicts may be biased the following estimate of 1939 Contingents by H. G. Salsinger, of the Detroit News, may furnish comfort.

Team work. That's what was most prominent in the Tigers' play during the Saturday and Sunday games which forced their ability to a real test. It was team work that won both games.

And again it was team work that made Washington more worthy of champions' status than Washington has ever been before. And it is team work that will make Washington a factor in the race this year.

In years previous there have been jobs open on both clubs. This year positions were assigned before the men reached their training camps. Consequently every man began training feeling sure of a job.

Where there are jobs open there is lack of team work. Men play for individual honors, for individual honors mean jobs, and in the meantime the club will be the loser.

Young players trying to break in will not take chances. The man who takes chances and sticks is the man who succeeds, but the ball player has a different viewpoint. He simply won't.

It soon gets burdensome to a city to have to put up a big amount of money for entertainment. There ought to be, of course, a reasonable amount of attention paid to visitors and every courtesy should be shown them, but elaborate entertainments are entirely unnecessary. In addition, they get to be burdensome.

In all these big national affairs a good deal of keen enjoyment can be gotten out of the competition alone and sportsmen who attend these different national functions are sportsmen enough to have a good time and spend a little money without wanting any city to cramp itself on their account. There is such a thing as carrying courtesy too far.

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THE NEW RULES
Price 10 Cents

A.G. SPALDING & BROS.

President Murphy and Manager Frank Chance are to hold a consultation today over the serious case of moneyitis which Catcher Kling seems to have contracted. Wise heads those other holdouts will probably return to the fold.

Reports say Mike Donlin is off to England, but the green suit which he recently purchased seems to belie the fact that Liverpool, London, or, in fact, any of the English towns will see him.

General comment is going the rounds over the scores of games in which the local scholastic teams are engaging this season. A total below ten seems contemptible to the scholastic tossers.

We see that the captain of the second baseball team at Friends School was elected yesterday. Now if that National League presidency squabble can be soon pushed aside we will breathe easier.

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HERE'S LAST WORD IN JEFFRIES CASE

“White Man Fit,” Says Ethel Barrymore—That Settles It.

BOSTON, March 25.—Mrs. R. G. Colt (nee Barrymore) has turned her attention to things pugilistic.

She has broken the sweet song of her honeymoon by viewing “Jim” Jeffries and Sam Berger puff through their “training” at the Orpheum Theater.

“There is nothing to it,” she said. “Jeffries is as good today as he was six years ago, and I know what I am talking about. I know him well, having met him several times with my brother in California. He is a magnificent specimen of manhood, physically, mentally, and morally.”

“He says he will fight Johnson if he can get into condition. Well, then, take my word for it, he will fight Johnson. He certainly will get into condition.”

“His appearance was a revelation to me. He appeared a little heavier around the shoulders and arms, but regular training will remedy that.”

CHICAGO MAGNATES CONSULT OVER KLING

Murphy and Chance Will Reach Decision at Meeting Today.

SHREVEPORT, La., March 25.—President Charles W. Murphy, of the Cubs, and Mrs. Frank Chance, wife of the peerless leader, reached Shreveport near midnight. President Murphy refused to discuss the retirement of John Kling, the Cub catcher, until after a conference with Manager Chance.

This will be held early today. It is expected that President Murphy and the peerless leader will get into the details of the Kling-Kling deal, which is believed to be responsible for Kling's announcement of retirement.

GRAHAM TO LEAD PENN WRESTLERS

Former Minnesota Athlete Elected Captain at Meeting of the Athletic Association.

PHILADELPHIA, March 25.—Reginald D. Graham was yesterday afternoon elected captain of Penn's wrestling team for the 1939 season, and Harold C. Whitelide was chosen manager.

Graham, hailing from the University of Minnesota, is in his first year in the medical school, and is a member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity. He would have played football last fall except that he was hindered on account of a fractured bone in his arm, which he hurt in a wrestling match last summer.

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WESTERN MAGNATES BEGIN OPEN BATTLE

Coast League Will Turn Outlaw to Annihilate the Competing Element.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., March 25.—President J. Cal Ewing, of the Pacific Coast Baseball League, has announced that the baseball war on the coast was to be carried into the camp of the enemy within a few weeks by the Coast League.

In its determination to put the outlaw league out of business Ewing's league is going to turn outlaw, too. The club owners have decided to raid the State League and all of the men now playing in that league that have been taken away from organized baseball.

Ewing and the rest of the Coast League magnates are put out because Ban Johnson and Harry Johnson did not keep their alleged promises to fight the outlaws.

BROWNING CHOSEN MANAGER AT PENN

Washington Lad Will Assist in Preparing Basketball Schedule This Season.

Powell Browning, of this city, has been elected assistant manager of the Penn basketball team for the coming season. He was formerly a student at the Central High School. Browning will assist in the preparation of the basketball schedule for the next year. He is a sophomore at the Red and Black institution.

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